



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
July 31, 2009

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Assemblymembers De La Torre, Salas and community leaders announce permanent funding of \$1.6 million annually to encourage doctors to serve in low-income communities

San Diego's Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center will benefit from Thompson Program

San Diego, Calif. – Assemblymember Hector De La Torre and Assemblymember Mary Salas welcome Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi to the Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center as a participating doctor in the Steven M. Thompson Program. The Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program was created to address physician shortages in low-income communities throughout the state. The Program encourages doctors to serve in low-income and rural communities for at least three years. The Foundation awarded \$1.6 million through 16 grants in July. The Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center, alongside thousands of patients in the San Diego area, will benefit from this program.

WHO: Hector De La Torre, Assemblymember, 50th District
Mary Salas, Assemblymember, 79th District
Jennette Lawrence, Family Health Centers of San Diego
Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi, Thompson Program Physician

WHAT: Announces permanent funding of \$1.6 million annually to the Steven M. Thompson Program which encourages doctors statewide to serve in low-income rural and urban communities. Applauds Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi as a participating physician in the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program in San Diego.

WHEN: **Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 9 a.m.**

WHERE: Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center
220 Euclid Avenue, Suite 40
San Diego, CA 92114

Background:

Assemblymember De La Torre authored Assembly Bill 2439 that generates more than \$1.6 million per year to fund the Thompson Program from a mandatory \$25 fee from physicians. Specifically, the Program will provide an estimated \$105,000 in loan reimbursements per physician to practice medicine in under-served communities throughout California.

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